



# REPI

## READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM USING REPI PROGRAM FUNDING AS MATCH FOR FEDERAL CONSERVATION OR RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program works to protect military missions by helping relieve or avoid land-use conflicts near military installations, address regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities, and prepare for climate change impacts by enhancing military installation resilience.

Through the REPI Program, DoD supports cost-sharing agreements between the Military Services and private conservation organizations or state and local governments to support natural infrastructure projects or acquire easements from willing sellers near installations and ranges. By maintaining compatible land uses, preserving habitat, and increasing climate resilience where the military trains, REPI projects also provide benefits to working lands, wildlife habitats, and the surrounding communities.

### REPI Funds Eligible to Match Federal Conservation and Resilience Grants

10 U.S. Code § 2684a(h) allows the recipient of REPI funds to use such funds as the match or cost-sharing requirement for any conservation or resilience program of any federal agency. Examples of conservation and resilience programs include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program<sup>1</sup>, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Forest Legacy Program<sup>2</sup>, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Program<sup>3</sup>, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC)<sup>4</sup>. REPI partners can leverage 10 U.S. Code § 2684a(h) to facilitate interagency cooperation and promote actions that protect the environment, enhance military installation resilience, and ensure military readiness.



An Operations Non-commissioned Officer with the 3/157th Regiment, carries a mock scenario casualty for the Region VII Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Williams, Utah. Best Warrior Competitions are designed to test Soldiers' mental and physical endurance with a variety of challenges to help the Army build strong and knowledgeable leaders. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Elizabeth Johnson)



U.S. Army Soldiers locate targets during a simulated close air support mission during exercise Red Flag-Alaska 19-2 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. Red Flag-Alaska exercises provide unique opportunities to integrate various forces in a realistic threat environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kristen Heller)

### How It Works:

- The REPI conservation partner must have an approved agreement with a military installation
  - Each installation has specific resource and mission needs to take into account when considering the appropriatematching grant program during the development of a project.
  - Only the military installation can submit a proposal requesting REPI funding for a project. The partner then submits an application to the appropriate NRCS, USFS, or USFWS grant program.
- The partner then submits an application to the appropriate grant program.
  - Applications should indicate that matching funds will come from the Department of Defense through the REPI Program and include information on whether the Military Service will be a co-grantee on the easement deed.

1 For more information about NRCS's easement program visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>.

2 For more information about the USFS's Forest Legacy Program visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy>

3 For more information about the NAWCA Program and the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program visit <http://www.fws.gov/grants/programs>.

4 For more information about FEMA's BRIC Program visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

## CASE STUDY: COMPATIBLE WORKING LANDS

In Utah, NRCS and The Conservation Fund partnered with the REPI program to protect roughly 400 acres of working agricultural lands near Camp Williams, just south of Salt Lake City, with NRCS contributing nearly 1.9 million. Population growth and urban sprawl encroaching close to the installation has threatened the training mission at Camp Williams. Protecting this land has persevered the viability of current and future operations at Camp Williams while also maintaining a migration corridor for mule deer and protecting the operational farmland of a local family.



Members of the Utah Army National Guard 2-211 Aviation Battalion assist members of the 19th Special Forces Group with freefall and static line parachute jumps near Camp Williams, Utah. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Chacon)

## CASE STUDY: PROTECTING THE TANANA RIVER WATERSHED

In April 2020, NRCS committed \$1.3 million to match \$1.0 million in Air Force Funds and \$300,000 committed by The Conservation Fund to a project at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), near Fairbanks, Alaska. Eielson is home to 5th generation F-35A fighters, an essential element of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command power projection. Using project funding, The Conservation Fund will acquire conservation easements on critical wetland sites on private lands adjacent to Eielson AFB and the Tanana River. In a quickly urbanizing area, this land will be preserved in perpetuity, protecting Eielson from incompatible development and limiting non-point source pollution in the Tanana River watershed.



Two F-35A Lightning II aircraft fly over the Alaska Highway en route to their new home with the 354th Fighter Wing at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. The F-35 represents a new model of international cooperation, ensuring U.S. and coalition-partner security well into the 21st century. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Adam Keele)

For more information about using REPI funds as cost-share, please contact your local installation, the REPI Program office, your NRCS State Conservationist, local USDA Service Center, or USFWS NAWCA or Coastal grant administrators.